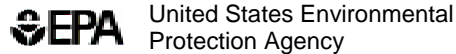


APPENDIX B

Description of the Common Sense Initiative



Common Sense Initiative
(6101)

EPA 742-B-96-007
May 1997

Common Sense Initiative

Automobile Manufacturing Sector Fact Sheet

Industry Background

As the largest industry in the United States, automobile manufacturing plays a significant role in the nation's economy. The industry produces not only vehicular transportation but also automotive parts and accessories. Though facilities can be found across the United States, nearly 40 percent are concentrated in the Great Lakes Region.

Subcommittee Background and Status

The Automobile Manufacturing Subcommittee consists of nearly 25 members from diverse backgrounds. Members come from such organizations as General Motors, Toyota, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor.

In the Spring of 1997, a full complement of Project Goals were reached. The Subcommittee reviewed and accepted the documentary reports which represented thoughtful consideration of several crucial environmental policy questions such as: How might industry and community interact and exchange information? Are there realistic alternatives to the existing regulatory system? Where in the manufacturing process can industry gain efficiencies and flexibility, meet economic realities, and maintain strong environmental standards?

The Subcommittee will present its findings to the CSI Council and conclude its current agenda. However, involvement with the community participation project in Louisville, Kentucky will continue.

**Alternative Sector
Regulatory System/
Community
Technical
Assistance and
Involvement Team**

Project Contact:
Keith Mason
U.S. EPA
202-260-1360

This team addressed automobile manufacturing regulatory systems and community involvement. Core principles and a process for implementing an alternative to today's regulatory system impacting the automobile manufacturing industry was proposed. The team also explored in detail the unique role and information needs of the community in creating such alternatives.

The following set of resultant documents was approved by the Subcommittee and will be forwarded to the Council for their consideration and dissemination.

Consensus Documents

Principles for an Alternative Sector Regulatory System
*U.S. Automobile Assembly Plants and Their Communities:
Environmental, Economic and Demographic Profiles*

Support Documents

The Process of Implementing an Alternative Sector Regulatory System
A Review of Community Participation in Environmental Decision-Making
*U. S. Automobile Assembly Plants and Their Communities: Summary of
Community and Plant Environmental and Economic Issues Obtained
through an Electronic Literature Search*

**Life-Cycle
Management/
Supplier
Partnership Project**

Project Contact:
Julie Lynch
U.S. EPA
202-260-4000

There are opportunities for environmental and economic gains through the wise selection and use of manufacturing materials using Life-Cycle Management. Life-Cycle Management is most helpful to auto manufacturers and their suppliers. EPA's understanding of this important environmental management tool will be advanced thanks to the dedicated work of this team who explored the business relationship between auto manufacturers, their many suppliers, and their role in positively influencing environmental outcomes in the manufacturing process.

The team's final reports range from primary data issues to strategic relationship issues to core Life-Cycle Management tool and policy assessments. The following set of documents will be forwarded to the Council for their consideration and dissemination.

Consensus Documents

Conclusions Document
Data Collection to Support Life-Cycle Management
Life-Cycle Management Data Summary Points
Framework for Evaluating Life-Cycle Management Information Needs
*Life-Cycle Management/Supplier Partnership Project Team Simulation
Exercise*

Support Documents

Tools and Policies for Life-Cycle Management/Life-Cycle Partnerships
*Identifying the Supply Chains for Automotive Assembly Plants: Supplier
Process Descriptions and Pollution Prevention Opportunities*
*The Chrysler Regulated Substance and Recyclability Certification Data
Collection and Reporting System*
*Life-Cycle Inventory Analysis of Instrument Panels: VOC Emissions in
Manufacturing*

**Regulatory
Initiative
Project**

Project Contact:
Alan Powell
U.S. EPA Region 4
404-562-9045

The Regulatory Initiative Project applies common sense to improve the effectiveness of automobile manufacturing regulatory requirements. A multi-stakeholder team concentrated on one specific area and initiated a project to evaluate alternatives to the current and complex topcoat standard. The project focused on evaluating the utility of expressing the current complex topcoat standard in alternative forms which provide the public with more understandable information and give the auto manufacturers a standard more consistent with international regulations. The team focused on the viability of a mass/area standard and determined that EPA should explore the possibilities of using this type of standard in future rulemaking. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Council for consideration and dissemination.

**Calendar
of Events**

For information on current events, contact Sector Lead Alan Powell at 404-562-9045 or Sector Alternate Keith Mason at 202-260-1360.

**The Common
Sense Initiative**

The Common Sense Initiative is an innovative approach to environmental protection and pollution prevention developed by the U.S. EPA. The Initiative addresses environmental management by industrial sector rather than by environmental medium (air, water, land). EPA selected six industries to serve as CSI pilots: automobile manufacturing, computer and electronics, iron and steel, metal finishing, petroleum refining, and printing. Six sector subcommittees, each consisting of representatives from industry, environmental justice organizations, labor organizations, environmental organizations, and federal, state, and local governments, address environmental issues facing these industries.

Since beginning their work in January 1995, the sector subcommittees have initiated nearly 40 projects involving more than 150 stakeholders who actively participate in sector subcommittees and subcommittee workgroups. Using a consensus approach to decision making, the groups address diverse topics such as pollution prevention, environmental reporting requirements, and public access to environmental information.

For more information about CSI, call 202-260-7417, contact our web site at <http://www.epa.gov/commonsense>, or write U.S. EPA, MC 6101, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

**Common Sense Initiative - Automobile Manufacturing Sector
Subcommittee Members and Affiliations
As of May 1997**

Co-chair Mary Nichols
U.S. EPA

Mr. Franklin E. Mirer
United Automobile Workers

Co-chair John Hankinson
U.S. EPA Region 4

Mr. Curtis Moore
American Lung Association

Designated Federal Officer
Alan Powell
U.S. EPA Region 4

Mr. Timothy J. O'Brien
Ford Motor Company

Mr. David L. Carlson
Chrysler Technology Center

Mr. Robert J. Phillips
General Motors Corporation

Mr. Gary A. Davis
Center for Clean Products & Clean
Technologies

Mr. Quincy N. Styke, III
Tennessee Air Pollution Control Division

Ms. Lisa Doerr
Citizens for a Better Environment

Mr. Mark L. Warner
Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.

Mr. Hank Graddy
Sierra Club

Mr. Charles Griffith
Ecology Center of Ann Arbor

Mr. James A. Janssen
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. G. Robert Kerr
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Kevin Mills
Environmental Defense Fund